

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, EXPRESSING COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THURSTON COUNTY'S BALLOT PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO INCREASE ITS REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LIMITATIONS OF CH. 84.55 RCW, TO CONSTRUCT A NEW COURTHOUSE, NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS, A NEW PARKING STRUCTURE AND TO CONSTRUCT, IMPROVE, AND CONSOLIDATE OTHER COUNTY OFFICES.

WHEREAS, Thurston County Courthouse and Administrative Regional Buildings Proposition No. 1 will be presented to the voters at a special election to be held on April 28, 2020, with the following official ballot title:

The Board of County Commissioners of Thurston County adopted Ordinances Nos. 15840 and 15864 concerning property taxes for a new courthouse and administrative buildings. To finance construction of buildings to consolidate County offices, including payments on bonds, and other County purposes, this proposition would increase the County's 2021 regular property tax levy to a total authorized rate of \$1.56 per \$1,000 valuation (estimated increase of \$0.47 per \$1,000 over the 2020 levy) exempting qualified seniors/disabled/veterans from the levy, and use the 2021 levy as the base for subsequent levy limitations for a total of 25 years.

Should this proposition be: Approved
 Rejected

and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners of Thurston County, Washington, adopted Ordinance No. 15840 authorizing Thurston County to submit a proposition to County voters at a special election to be held on April 28, 2020, a proposition authorizing the County to levy property taxes to construct certain improvements; and

WHEREAS, the existing buildings for County government and the courts in their current state are at the end of their useful life, costing significant taxpayer dollars to maintain and operate. The current layout and design also make it difficult for citizens to locate County resources and services in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 and in 2018, Thurston County conducted courthouse renovations or replacement comparative feasibility studies to provide the County with a long-term solution to housing court and other County administrative functions in an efficient and cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 study, at the direction of the County, conducted further analysis on the following three sites:

- (a) the existing Lakeridge Drive hilltop site of Thurston County government and the courts;
- (b) the Plum Street site which was formerly the original site of Olympia City Hall and currently the location of the City of Olympia's Lee Creighton Justice Center; and
- (c) Harrison West which is currently undeveloped on the west side of the city; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Thurston County Commissioners reviewed the 2015 and 2018 feasibility studies and determined that it would be in the best interest to re-locate and construct a new courthouse and County government buildings at the Plum Street site; and

WHEREAS, the Lee Creighton Justice Center located at 900 Plum Street SE is owned by the City of Olympia and currently houses the Olympia Municipal Court and court staff, Olympia Probation Services, and the offices of Olympia's prosecutors; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Center buildings were constructed in 1967 and are beyond their useful life span, no longer meet the operational needs of the City and are costly to maintain, as well as inefficient to heat and cool; and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia will need to substantially upgrade or replace this facility in the near future if it is to continue to be used as a Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, if a new County courthouse is built on the Plum Street site, the City would partner with Thurston County to house at the new courthouse the City's Municipal Court, Municipal Jail, Probation, and Prosecutors, as well as staff connected with those services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Thurston County, Washington have determined that it is in the interest of the County to finance the construction of a new courthouse and regional buildings and improvements for the consolidation of County offices by a levy lid lift; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 provides for the levy of regular property taxes in an amount exceeding the limitations specified in Chapter 84.55 RCW, if such increased levy is authorized by a ballot proposition approved by a majority of the voters at an election held within the taxing district (a "levy lid lift"); and

WHEREAS, Thurston County has determined that it is in the best interest of the County and its residents to submit a levy lid lift proposition under RCW 84.55.050(1) to the voters for their approval or rejection;

WHEREAS, RCW 42.17A.555 permits the City Council to take a position on a ballot measure at an open public meeting so long as notice of the meeting includes the ballot title and number of the ballot measure, and that those expressing an opposing view are afforded an approximately equal opportunity to express an opinion at a public hearing prior to action by the City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Olympia City Council hereby expresses its support for Thurston County Proposition No. 1, which, if passed, would allow Thurston County to levy regular property taxes in excess of the limitations in Chapter 84.55 RCW, exempting qualified seniors, disabled persons, and veterans pursuant to RCW 84.36.381, for the purpose of constructing certain County improvements such as a new County Courthouse, new administrative buildings, and construct, improve and consolidate other County offices.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage by the Olympia City Council.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of _____ 2020.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY ATTORNEY